

ACRL NY

Association of College and Research Libraries

Connections:
The Quarterly Newsletter of ACRL / NY

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Message from the President

Dona McDermott

The summer is over and we are once again gearing up for a new academic year. The ACRL/NY Symposium Committee is busily working on plans for the upcoming symposium, "Commercialization of Academic Libraries: Mission Statement or Market Share" to be held on December 1, 2006. This should be a very thought provoking symposium, so mark your calendars now for that date.

Our Discussion Groups have been hard at work. The Electronic Resources Discussion Group had a meeting with Rochelle Ballard, Digital Resources Coordinator, Princeton University as speaker in April. Her topic was "Converting from a Home-cooked System to Endeavor's Meridian." The Education/Curriculum Materials Center Librarians met at Bank Street College of Education for a lively discussion on June 16.

Some exciting plans are in the works for the fall. The Information Literacy Discussion Group will be holding a meeting to discuss BI Strategies on Friday, October 6, 2006 at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University.

As long as you are a member of ACRL/NY you are welcome to attend any of the Discussion Group programs. These are announced through the ACRL/NY listserv and also on the ACRL/NY website. Participation offers a

great way to network with your colleagues in other institutions.

Dona McDermott

Information Literacy Discussion Group

To Meet

Topic: BI Strategies Date: Friday, Oct. 6, 2006

Place: Long Island University—Brooklyn Campus

1 University Plaza

Brooklyn, NY 11201

LLC 515 & new LIU Bklyn BI Lab

Time: 2 p.m. – 5 Refreshments will be served.

Directions and to confirm attendance:

Vincent.munch@liu.edu or (718) 488-3474

MEETING – EDUCATION/CURRICULUM MATERIALS CENTER LIBRARIANS

By Harriet Hagenbruch, Hofstra University

The Education/Curriculum Materials Center Librarian Discussion Group met at the Bank Street College of Education on Friday, June 16. The main focus of the meeting was the ERIC database which, as most people know by now, has undergone considerable change in the past couple of years. Among those changes was the elimination of the sixteen Clearinghouses each of which specialized in one aspect of education and provided indexing for that particular area. All of these Clearinghouses were replaced by the “What Works Clearinghouse.” In addition, to aid in the process to streamline and modernize the database, two advisory panels, The ERIC Steering Committee and Content Experts are providing input. Naturally, when such vast changes occur, there are bound to be ramifications. As a result, Education librarians have been monitoring the database closely.

One librarian, in particular, who has done a fantastic job in keeping people informed about ERIC is Kate Corby, Education and Psychology Reference Librarian, Michigan State University Libraries. Harriet Hagenbruch, Chair of the Discussion Group, had contacted Kate about what she considered significant recent changes as well as areas of concern. Therefore, toward the beginning of the meeting, Harriet read aloud Kate’s reply to her query. Kate stressed the fact that, unlike a commercial product, this database is federally funded and it is up to interested parties such as education librarians to assume responsibility for the fact that the database does a “good job” in meeting the informational needs of its users. While she praised the contractor for efforts to improve the database, she did cite issues and various problems. One problem Kate mentioned (something already brought up by Group members) is the gap in indexing for 2002/03. This has happened because the new contractor started coverage in 2004 and is not supposed to add “older information.” Kate noted that there has been talk of addressing that. Another problem was not including all articles from each issue of a journal such as the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Apparently, that did cause a “hue and cry” and the contractor indicated that, in the future, they will index this journal article by article. In addition, Kate informed us about the existence of three “Discussion Groups” which are charged with providing input in terms of changes in the Thesaurus, helping to identify content providers, and discussing indexing.

Other areas of concern expressed by the Group are how it is determined which journals get into the database and exactly what is being indexed in each journal. Also, people wondered about that whole area of “gray literature” and how thoroughly that is being addressed. In addition, the issue of the microfiche collection was raised as Group members wondered if any libraries are assuming responsibility for housing the microfiche collection. In conjunction with that, someone suggested that a list of libraries that own the fiche should be included on the web site. There was, also, a discussion of the government’s emphasis on scientifically based materials as opposed to materials based on qualitative research and how that affects what is included. In general, there was a sense of unease about too tight government control of information. It truly made the Group

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Previous issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found on the chapter’s website: <http://www.acrlny.org>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

by Lois O'Neill, Adelphi University

The ACRL/NY Electronic Resources and Technical Services discussion groups sponsored a program on electronic resource management (ERM) systems, on April 28th. The featured speaker, Rochelle Ballard, Digital Resources Coordinator at Princeton University, talked about Princeton University Library's recent conversion from a home-grown ERM system to Meridian, Endeavor's ERM system.

Prior to converting to Meridian, Princeton Library used several in-house databases, spreadsheets, and other home-cooked organizational tools to manage their 600 databases. Transitioning to one management tool was a long and complex process, but diverse records including subscription information, database summaries, requests for new resources, trials, renewals, cancellations, vendor contacts, licensing information, fund codes, and acquisitions checklists are now centrally located. Ms. Ballard finds that using Meridian helps to clarify work flow, eliminate duplication of staff efforts, as well as foster staff awareness about the Library's electronic resources. Her description of the transition to Meridian was very informative, covering many practical issues involved in the implementation. She stressed that having representatives from all library departments is very important to the process.

Ms. Ballard also talked about the Library's Online Problem Management system. Users report encountered problems by email, which is sent to an Online Problem Management Sheet, and funneled to the appropriate team such as SFX-support, E-support, or Reference-support. The response from the Princeton Community has been positive.

Thanks to Rochelle Ballard for an enlightening afternoon, and to Anne Swain, ACRL/NY Electronic Resources Discussion Group member, for her gracious hosting of this program (and provision of tasty refreshments) at ASA Institute Of Business And Computer Technology, on 34th Street and Broadway.

ACRLNY Symposium 2006 Update

SAVE THE DATE: December 1, 2006, Baruch College

The Symposium Planning Committee is in high-gear for the chapter's annual event. This year's title, "Commercialization and the Academic Library: Mission Statement or Market Share" reflects the growing trend to apply the business model to academia. Many academic librarians face downsizing, shrinking budgets, and decisions based on usage rather than access. We have responded with new technologies, collaborative efforts and focused strategies.

The symposium will include presentations by four nationally known speakers. Denise Troll, Carnegie Mellon University, Walter Crawford, RLG/OCLC, Rick Anderson, University of Nevada-Reno, and Jim Neal, Columbia University will address the challenges and opportunities we confront. Following lunch at Baruch, a moderated panel will respond to questions from the audience.

Be sure to save the date and look for the symposium website link at www.acrlny.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

Marsha Spiegelman, Vice President, Chair Symposium Planning Committee

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realize that while librarians pride themselves on being the people responsible for information literacy, the information is only as good as what librarians, among others, have access to.

One topic that was raised was the use of a program called Macromedia Captivate. This tool provides a way to create software demonstrations, training simulations, and quizzes by recording on screen action, after which, a project file can be created that can be edited and published in a variety of formats. The same person who discussed this program and its implementation, also, mentioned that her institution is one of a number functioning as Beta Test Sites for ERIC. Apparently, functioning in this capacity allows users to Link to My Library, on the ERIC Web site. As a result and through OpenUrl technology, users of MY ERIC can link to electronic resources available within their library.

Other topics raised at the meeting were the use of Kraus Curriculum Development Library (KDCL) in its online form. This is a database (originally on microfiche) of K-12 curriculum guides throughout the United States and Canada and, as such, provides access to search by grade, subject area, etc. One of the Group members is on the KCDL Advisory Board and was anxious for feedback in terms of usage. The use of Dewey Decimal Classification for educational materials and the pro and cons of this classification system as opposed to Library of Congress was brought up.

Finally, the Group was provided with a tour of the Bank Street College Library. Linda Greengrass, Library Director, pointed out that the entire Library really functions as a Curriculum Materials Center. A number of the Group were impressed by the Library (the cheerful atmosphere and warmth exuded by the staff) including the fact that it functions both as a media center for children in the Bank Street School and as a lab for the graduate education students who attend Bank Street. This was a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable meeting. The Group hopes to meet, again, at Bank Street at some time in the future.